

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 9.1
TITLE: BOWEL AND BLADDER CARE

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.900 and 17.901

RELATED REFERENCES: M-1, Part 1, Chapter 18.27

I. DEFINITIONS

A. Bowel and bladder care is required when there is a loss of sensation and muscular control of the bowel and bladder (urinary tract) functions.

B. A family member is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew of the beneficiary by blood or marriage.

II. DESCRIPTIONS

Two methods of bladder care are most commonly used.

1. External care. A leg bag is a rubber bag attached to the patient's calf and connected by a tube. Urine passes through the tube into the leg bag.

2. Internal care. Some patients require catheterization. This is a sterile procedure, which involves passing a catheter to the bladder. Using release of pressure from the bladder, urine drains into a receptacle and is disposed of. Catheterization may be permanent (involving an indwelling catheter) or intermittent.

III. POLICY

A. Bowel and bladder care is considered a supportive medical service and is covered as a home health service when required for the covered medical condition.

B. Bowel and bladder care may be provided by:

1. a licensed or registered health care provider,
2. a trained paraprofessional under the supervision of a licensed health care provider, or
3. A trained family member (see [Chapter 3, Section 2](#), *Allowable Amount*, for limitations regarding reimbursement).

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END OF POLICY